MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 1098.
(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Irrigation Cess.

154. **MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of irrigation works in respect of which they propose to levy irrigation cess?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The question of levying irrigation cess is decided after a work is completed, and it is not therefore possible to furnish the information now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The answer is;—

"The question of levying irrigation cess is decided after a work is completed".

Are the Government aware that notifications are published in the Government Gazette under Section 12 of the Irrigation Regulation asking people to put in objections if they have any, to constructing irrigation works?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): What has that to do with this?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Does not that mean that if there is any objection from any individual to the construction of an irrigation work on the ground that he is unable to pay irrigation cess, then the work will not be executed?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not so stated in the notifications published in the Government Gazette.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But it is stated that the notification is one published under Section 12 of the Regulation, and Section 12 says that Government may publish a notification in order to ascertain whether any man has any objection to paying the irrigation cess.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is not stated in the Notification that the work will not be executed if an individual objects to paying the cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): But it is stated that the notification is published under Section 12.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Objections are invited for the construction of the work and the question of levying irrigation cess is taken up under Section 18 of the Regulation.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): The notification says that the owner of any land which will be benefited by the work may put in his objections.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That refers to objections against the construction of the works. There is no mention about the irrigation cess in Section 12 of the Regulation. Will the member refer me to the portion of that Section dealing with cess,

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MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : This is what the Section says:—

"If the majority of proprietors interested apply to the Division Peishkar or other officer aforesaid, stating that any Minor Irrigation Work should be constructed, restored or repaired by Government and agreeing to repay the cost, such officer shall, after giving notice to the other proprietors, investigate the matter, and if satisfied that the work applied for should be constructed or repaired in the interests of cultivation, shall submit a report to the Dewan. The report shall specify the nature of the work, the area of land which will be benefited by it with the assessment thereon, a rough estimate of the cost the number of instalments in which the applicants are willing to repay the cost, and such other particulars as may be prescribed by the Dewan. The Dewan may sanction the execution of the work on the terms agreed to by the applicants."

In respect of cost, it is stated in another Section that Government may get the cost or the interest on the amount spent. If the member is unaware of it, I would read that Section also.

My question was whether the Government would place on the table a list of irrigation works in respect of which they propose to levy the irrigation cess. The Government's reply to that question is, that will be decided only after the works are completed. When representations were made in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the answer of the Dewan was that they would be constructed only on payment of cess. I will refer the member to the proceedings of the 24th Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I may say that, in the case of works which involve a large outlay, it may be necessary, even before the construction of the works, to get undertakings from the ryots interested in those works agreeing to pay cess, and then Government might levy that cess.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Is the member aware that about Rs. 500 or Rs. 600 was sanctioned to improve the *pulhen Todu* and the *Pazhaya Todu* in the Kannamangalam pakuti and that the ryots were informed that the work would be begun only if they agreed to pay this cess?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : I have already answered that.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Was it because the Government consider Rs. 600 to be a very big amount?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*) : They did not want to start the work until they had this undertaking from the ryots.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*) : Section 18 of the Irrigation Regulation says :—

"Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, Our Government may levy a cess on any area benefited by an Irragation Work, Major or Minor, constructed, restored or repaired, after the passing of this Regulation, wholly at the cost of Government, provided that the total amount of such cess shall not exceed 6 per cent. interest on the total outlay incurred, and provided also that, in the case of a Minor Irrigation Work,

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[Mr. A. S. Damodaran Asan.]

the cess shall absolve the ryots interested from payment of their portion of the cost of such work where such payment is otherwise leviable, and also from the duty of maintaining the work under Section 13."

I ask whether the question of levying irrigation cess arises before the work is undertaken?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The enquiry relating to the levy of cess may in some cases be commenced even before the construction of the work, although the actual levy is made after the work is done.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know what are those works about which enquiries have been made before the construction of the work?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If it is the desire of the member to have a list of works in respect of which the enquiry as regards the proposed levy has been started, then I may say that information has to be obtained from the officers concerned. It is not available just now.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): All that I want is a list of works, the construction of which is dependent on the interested ryots agreeing to pay cess.

PRESIDENT: Do you mean pending works?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I mean works which are to be executed?

PRESIDENT: In the future?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): How are we to know, Sir, what are the works which are to be executed? Some proposals are pending before the Government.

PRESIDENT: That is, you mean pending proposals.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Yes

PRESIDENT: Your question is vague.

Statement, by caste, of Officers of the Public Works Department on Rs. 250 and above.

155. **MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN** (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement, by caste, of the Officers of the Public Works Department drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 250 and above?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A statement* containing the information is laid on the table.

The Alleppey-Cochin Road.

156. **MR. K. C. KARUNAKARAN** (*Nominated*): (1) Are the Government aware that the Alleppey-Arur road and the Cochin Government's portion of the road on the other side of Arur have been completed and opened for traffic?

* *Vide* Appendix XXVII—Page 461.

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